

REMARKS

Claims 1, 6 and 8 have been amended, and claims 7, 14, 15, 19 and 20 have been cancelled without prejudice, and claims 21-31 have been added. No new matter has been added. For instance, support for the amendments and new claims appears e.g. at page 8 and the original claims of the application.

It is believed the amendments made herein obviate the formality objection to claim 1.

Claims 1-3, 6, 7-12, 14 and 16-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 over Place (U.S. Patent 3589846).

Claims 4, 5, 13, 15 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Place (U.S. Patent 3589846) in view of EP0385910.

For the sake of brevity, the two rejections are addressed in combination. Such a combined response is considered appropriate because, *inter alia*, each of the rejections relies on the Place document as the sole or primary citation.

Each of the rejections is traversed.

The Place document fails to disclose Applicants' claimed invention.

For example, independent claims 1, 6 and 8 recite that the electric resistance igniter is controlled so as to maintain the electric resistance igniter at an operational temperature that is less than the gas ignition temperature but above room temperature and so the electric resistance igniter can be re-heated so as to re-ignite the gas within a re-ignition time period of about 6 second or less.

Such preferred rapid ignition is a preferred aspect of Applicants' claimed systems, as discussed at pages 6, 8 and 17 of the application.

The Place document does not describe such rapid re-ignition systems. See, for instance, Place at columns 4 through 5 where a complicated ignition sequence is reported.

Applicants' independent claims 24 and 31 call for where operation of the electric resistance igniter is controlled so the electric resistance igniter is at a temperature less than the gas ignition temperature but above room temperature and within 600°C of the gas ignition temperature.

This also is a preferred aspect of Applicants' invention, as described e.g. at page 8 of the application.

The Place document does not describe such a system. See, for instance, Place at column 8, where temperatures of 1,000°F and 2,300°F are reported.

The cited EP0385910 does not remedy such deficiencies of the Place document. Thus, for instance, EP0385910 does not report or suggest Applicants' claimed re-ignition times or temperatures.

In view thereof, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are requested.

Claims 1-20 were provisionally rejected under the doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-33 of copending application number 10/090,450. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

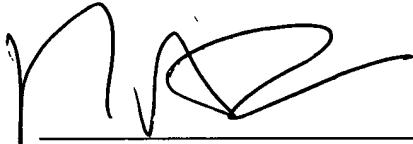
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The cited copending claims do not recite the re-ignition times or temperatures as recited in the present independent claims.

In view thereof, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are requested.

It is believed the application is in condition for immediate allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Peter F. Corless (Reg. 33,860)
EDWARDS ANGELL PALMER & DODGE LLP
P.O. Box 55874
Boston, MA 02205
(617) 439-4444